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President Reveals Fast Jet Fighter

Also Hints At Change in Canal Treaty

By CECIL HOLLAND
Star Staff Writer

President Johnson disclosed today the existence of a new super secret jet fighter plane far exceeding in performance any other aircraft in the world.

The President made the announcement in his sixth press conference and the first he has held on live television.

He said the long-range interceptor, the A-11, was being revealed at this time so that its development could proceed in an orderly way.

The President gave only the barest details of the plane except to say that it has been tested in sustained flight at speeds in excess of 2,000 miles an hour and at altitudes in excess of 70,000 feet.

Eleven of the planes are now being flight-tested at Edwards Air Force Base, the President disclosed. But he added that he had ordered the utmost secrecy about the other performance details of the aircraft.

Discusses Canal Pact

For the first time publicly, President Johnson hinted that the United States would be willing to revise the Panama Canal Zone treaty.

The President said that "we realize that the treaties were written in 1903 and modified from time to time—that problems are involved that need to be dealt with and perhaps would require adjustment in the treaty in 1963 or 1964."

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Latin American sources involved in the current mediation attempt between Panama and the United States said afterwards that they believe that this presidential hint is an appreciable step forward. United States representatives have long hinted in private that the United States would be willing to revise the 1903 treaty once diplomatic relations are resumed with Panama and no preconditions are attached to the treaty negotiations.

The President took this line at his press conference. He said, "We are not going to make any precommitments before we sit down on what we are not going to do in the way of rewriting new treaties with a nation that we do not have diplomatic relations with."

Set Up in 1959

On his announcement about the new plane, the President said the A-11 jet aircraft program was set up in secret in 1959, with the Lockheed Aircraft Corp. in charge of the undertaking. The engine was built by Pratt and Whitney and Hughes developed the fire control and missile system.

The problems solved in developing the aircraft, he commented, will assist in the development of a supersonic transport plane.

One of the key matters in the A-11 development, the President noted, was a new process for using titanium metal which resists high temperatures resulting from supersonic flight.

The President opened his news conference, held in the State Department's International Conference Room, by announcing a number of high-level Government appointments.

William Bundy Named

Topping the list was the appointment of William P. Bundy as Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs.

Mr. Bundy, older brother of McGeorge Bundy, the President's special assistant for national security affairs, will succeed Roger Hilsman, who resigned unexpectedly this week. William Bundy has been Assistant Secretary of Defense for International affairs.

The President also announced that John T. McNaughton, the defense Department's general counsel, will be promoted to the position Mr. Bundy now holds.

He also said he was naming Daniel M. Leuvano, a California State official, as an Assistant Secretary of the Army. The position has been vacant.

A fourth appointment was that of Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman of St. Louis as a member of the Civil Rights Commission. The President de-



WILLIAM P. BUNDY
Gets New Post

scribed Mrs. Freeman as a distinguished lawyer and formerly an assistant Missouri attorney general. She is a 1947 law graduate of Howard University.

The press conference was held in the same conference room where Secretary of State Rusk held his news conferences.

Mr. Johnson sat at a desk as he fielded questions from reporters. Mr. Johnson seemed quite serious throughout the

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entire 30 minutes of the press conference as he responded to questions covering a wide range of domestic and foreign matters.

One of the first questions directed at the President was what he thought would be the political impact of the Bobby Baker case. He said this was a matter with which the Senate is concerned and he was sure that proper action would be taken. The President added that it remained to be seen what the consequences would be.

In response to other political questions the President refused to say whether he would debate the Republican presidential nominee and declined to speculate on who that nominee will be.

As for the boom in some quarters for Henry Cabot Lodge, the United States Ambassador in South Viet Nam, for the nomination, Mr. Johnson said he was unaware of any political plan Mr. Lodge may have.

The press conference, with the Nation looking on, marked the completion of the President's first 100 days in office.

Mr. Johnson said he had been reasonably close to the presidency during his 30 years in Washington but has received

many different impressions since "I came to this awesome responsibility."

He added that he was deeply impressed by the unity displaced by the people after the "tragic affair of last November" when the assassination of President Kennedy brought him into the White House.

He said he was impressed with the way the cabinet and other top officials had carried on and with what Congress has done. During the crisis, the President said, the Nation conducted itself well with "men and women of good will" working together.

In response to questions, the President commented on other matters:

Viet Nam—The situation is "very difficult" and he has asked Defense Secretary McNamara to go there in the next few days and bring back valuable information. No good purpose will be served by speculating on the military strategy and the idea that we are losing the fight and things "have gone to pot" are not justified.

Cyprus—The United States is "deeply concerned" over "a very serious situation . . . and we are doing our dead level best to find a solution."

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